



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes of January 6th, 2014

Board Members Present: Nathaniel Yohalem, Chairman
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant
Jessica Bosworth, Administrative Secretary

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 5:05 pm.

Chairman Yohalem announced that the liquor license for Gedney Farm was issued following the completion of the necessary repairs and inspections.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the minutes of December 16th, 2013.

Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring came before the Board to inform of the large expenditure on salt for winter maintenance of the roads.

Chairman Yohalem, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Loring and remarked that the Highway Department is "doing a terrific job under really adverse conditions".

Mr. Loring also made the Board aware of one of the highway trucks, International 7300, that consistently breaks down. A discussion ensued about leasing a new truck (with the option to buy) for reliability and cost savings to the Town.

Finally, Mr. Loring advocated to the Board that the Highway Superintendent position be eligible for overtime pay on top of the regular salary. The Board will look further into the matter.

Chairman Yohalem also remarked that Ed Harvey "is doing a terrific job as the Emergency Management Director". Mr. Harvey opened a warming station during the last snow storm for any residents that might have lost power. In addition, accolades to the Fire Department were given for the quick response to the fire in the building behind the Library a few weeks ago.

Announcements and Updates

Administrative Secretary, Michael Skorput gave an update on the Land Trust sale. It was agreed upon between Mr. Skorput and Treasurer, Patricia Mielke that the purchase price for the 2.01 acres of land be set at \$13,300. Roughly half of the total amount is the actual cost of the land, the other half being taxes and interest. Mr. Skorput will be in contact with the Attorneys of Martha Bryan, Executive Director of the Land Trust.

The Board reviewed the contract from Sullivan & Sullivan on the Town's land auctions. Chairman Yohalem would like to see a minor amendment made to the document before it is signed. Administrative Secretary, Jessica Bosworth will contact the Auctioneers to request the correction.

The Board discussed the insurance details for John Lander, Clerk of the Works, for the Foley Bridge project. The Town would pay \$1.21 per hour of work, a total of approximately \$550 at the estimated 450 hours to be spent on the project. An alternate option was presented, in which Mr. Lander obtain his own liability insurance policy, if the cost were less than through the Town's insurance carrier. Further discussion on the matter was deferred to next week's meeting.

It was noted that additional information has not yet been received regarding the right-of-way for the property of David Ralph, whose Special Permit Hearing is scheduled for next Monday, January 13th. The Board concluded that it would wait to conduct a site visit until after the hearing.

Chairman Yohalem announced that he will hold a meeting with Tara White, Patricia Mielke, Marsha Pshenishny, and Michael Skorput next Monday, January 13th at 11:00 am. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a schedule around the process of setting the tax rates. Dates will be set for book closings, Assessor deadlines, and sending the reports to the State.

Selectmen Shalaby suggested that the Board of Selectmen meet with the Planning Board following the Special Town Meeting, to discuss future plans with respect to the By-laws. Jessica Bosworth will email the members of the Planning Board to extend an invitation to a meeting.

It was noted that the Board is aware of the person responsible for hanging the artificial traffic light in Town, at the intersection outside of the Library. Michael Skorput will contact the office of the individual to ask for it to be taken down.

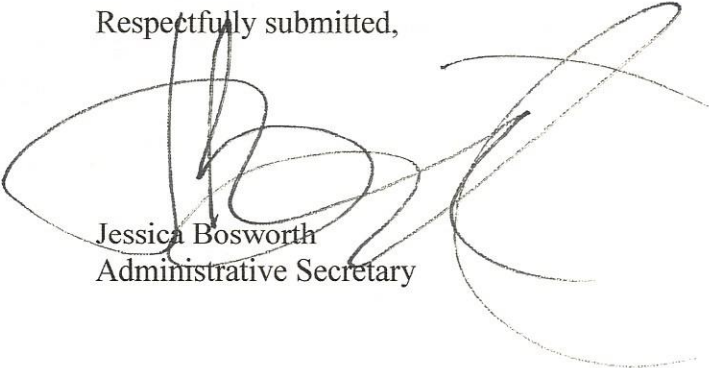
The Board reviewed and discussed the Expenditures report and various other matters including the safe for Town records, the new security system installment, the upcoming VoIP system, and Blackboard Connect.

Chairman Yohalem expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of communication between the Board [representing the five Towns] and the Subcommittee of the School Committee in regards to the capital needs of the four schools. Attendance and enrollment figures, capital requirements for Sheffield and Egremont schools and an Engineer's survey report for New Marlborough Central were expected and never completed. After a discussion it was agreed that Chairman Yohalem

would call Vito Valentini, Chairman of the Subcommittee to address the aforementioned issues and the preliminary budget meeting to take place within the next week or two.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Bosworth
Administrative Secretary